

13. On the Feet and Rhinarium of the Polar Bear  
(*Thalarctos maritimus*). By R. I. POCOCK, F.R.S.,  
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(Text-figure 1.)

The fore feet resemble in a general way those of all the northern species referred to *Ursus* and *Euarctos* in having a single small isolated carpal pad entirely surrounded by hair and separated from the plantar pad. The pads of the hind foot are very similar to those of the fore foot, but the digitals are a little smaller and the plantar a little larger, although of the same width. A point in which the hind foot of *Thalarctos* differs from that of all other genera of Ursidæ is the extent to which the metatarsal area is overgrown with hair, reducing the metatarsal pad to a small elliptical pad occupying nearly the same position as, and only a little larger than, the carpal pad of the fore foot. In the other genera the metatarsal area is either wholly naked or is merely invaded on the inner side by a narrow tract of hair along the groove marking the division between the plantar and metatarsal pad. As subsidiary differences it may be noticed that the carpal pad is altogether smaller, and the plantar pads of both fore and hind foot shorter, than in the rest of the genera.

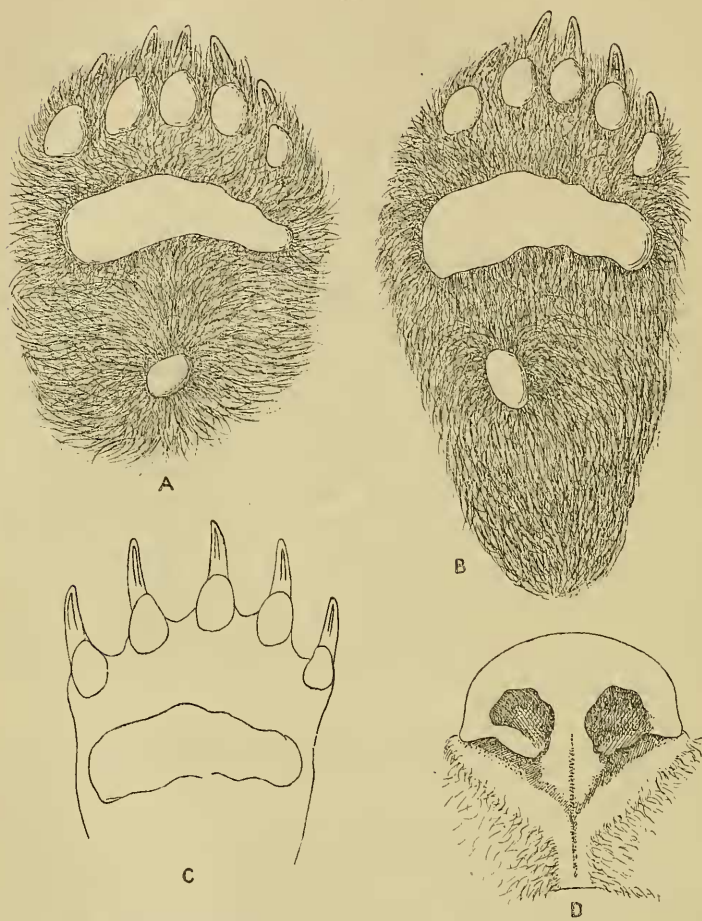
The digits of both fore and hind foot are separable by tolerably equal spaces as in *Ursus arctos*, and, as in that species, the interdigital integument extends approximately half-way along the digital pads.

The rhinarium resembles closely that of *Ursus arctos*, *horribilis*, *Euarctos americanus*, and *Selenarctos tibetanus*. It is everywhere sharply circumscribed by hair, though less so on the upper lip than above. In profile view the internarial septum is not concealed by the lateral border of the nostril; and there is a deep, smooth infranarial area on each side, marked by a shallow groove which diverges outwards and upwards from the middle line to the nostril. Their point of union in the middle line is crossed by another shallow groove, which descends vertically from about the middle of the internarial septum to the ill-defined philtrum, dividing the hairs of the upper lip.

The ears are in no respect degenerate, and resemble those of

*Ursus* and *Euarctos* in having well-developed supratragus and basal ridges, with a narrow notch between the angular tragus and the much less prominent antitragus\*.

Text-figure 1.



- A. Lower side of right fore foot of *Thalarctos maritimus*.  
 B. The same of the hind foot.  
 C. Hind foot of the same with hairs omitted to show the separation and interdigital integument of the digits.  
 D. Rhinarium of the same from the front.

\* For descriptions of the ears, rhinarium, and feet of other Bears, see Proc. Zool. Soc. 1914, pp. 929-941, and Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (9) i. pp. 375-384 (1918).